

Remarks

Claims 42-57 are pending in the subject application. By this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 42-57 and rewritten the elected group of claims as new claims 58-91. Claims 58-76 and 86-91 read on the elected invention. Accordingly, claims 58-91 (with claims 77-85 standing withdrawn from consideration) are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Preliminary Amendment dated April 1, 2005, Applicants requested that an Abstract of the Disclosure page be entered into the subject specification. However, it does not appear that the Abstract was provided with the Preliminary Amendment. Attached with this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is an Abstract of the Disclosure page to be inserted as new page 63 of the subject specification. Entry and consideration of the Abstract is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requiring the election of a single peptide and the restriction of the various methods for examination in view of the new claim set. As the Examiner is aware, this application is a national stage application and is subject to the unity of invention rules for restriction. The principles of unity of invention are used to determine the types of claimed subject matter and the combinations of claims to different categories of invention that are permitted to be included in a single international or national stage patent application. The basic principle is that an application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, that applicant would have a right to include in a single application only those inventions which are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. The expression "special technical features" is defined in PCT Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical features that define a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Additionally, a group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. The expression special technical features is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

As required by the Examiner, Applicants have elected SEQ ID NO: 2 (which corresponds to the 98-amino acid long protein sequence p1754) for examination on the merits. Applicants

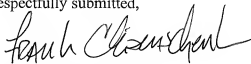
respectfully submit that SEQ ID NO: 1 is the DNA sequence containing the ORF encoding for p1754 and SEQ ID NOs: 17-18 are the primer sequences specific for said ORF. Thus, there is a close special technical relationship (protein, DNA and primers) among the elected species and examination of the elected invention, including methods of making the claimed polypeptide and screening for antagonists of the claimed polypeptide, is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D.

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 45,332

Phone No.: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: P.O. Box 142950
Gainesville, FL 32614-2950

FCE/sl

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure